AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for performing configuration management relative to an aircraft, the apparatus comprising:

a portable computer having a processor and memory configured for connection with a plurality of components of the aircraft to retrieve data from one or more modules of the aircraft components;

a configuration file resident in said portable computer, the configuration file having one or more parameters associated with said data from one or more modules of the aircraft components;

a translation file resident in said portable computer, the translation file providing a system call for informing a current application that data associated with a parameter is about to be fetched from said configuration file, the translation file further including commands for providing data for one or more parameters that are determined to be missing from said configuration file; and

a construct processing module of a web server software module resident in said computer to update one or more web pages using one or more constructs;

the processor and memory configured to, when the portable computer is operating standalone:

execute said system call to inform said construct processing module that data associated with a given parameter is about to be fetched from said configuration file;

determine whether the given parameter is missing from said configuration file based on a status of said system call;

if the given parameter is determined to be missing, execute a command from said translation file to provide data associated with said missing parameter to said construct processing module;

execute [[a]] the web server module ~~resident in the portable computer~~ to include at least some of the retrieved data in one or more web page markups for providing a

plurality of maintenance and/or engineering functions selectable by a user of the computer and performable via the computer as to one or more of the components of the aircraft; and

execute a web browser module resident in the portable computer and in communication with the server module to display the one or more web page markups as one or more web pages on a display of the portable computer.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the maintenance and/or engineering functions comprise one or more of the following: a configuration management function, a software upgrade function, a health status function, and a troubleshooting function.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the computer ~~further comprising a configuration file resident in the computer for holding the received data, the server module executable by the processor to process data from the configuration file for inclusion in the one or more web page markups~~ is further configured to execute a command from the translation file to calculate the data associated with the given parameter and store the calculated data in the configuration file before fetching the calculated data from the configuration file.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~3, further comprising one or more constructs included in the web page markups, the computer further comprising a construct processing module configured with the server for execution by the processor to use the data from the configuration file to produce the one or more web page markups~~ 1, wherein, if the given parameter is determined to be missing, the data associated with the given parameter is not retrievable from the aircraft components.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[4]] 1, further comprising a script executable by the processor through the server to activate the construct processing module.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the construct processing module is configured to use a common gateway interface of the server to obtain data from the configuration file.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the aircraft is included in a fleet managed via a network operations center, the computer further operable to deliver at least one of the data from the configuration file and the one or more web pages specific to a given one of the aircraft to the network operations center.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the computer further operable to ~~perform at least one of updating~~ update software included in at least one of the components of the aircraft, ~~collecting~~ collect performance data from at least one of the components of the aircraft, and ~~operating~~ operate a troubleshooting tool relative to at least one of the components of the aircraft.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for performing configuration management relative to an aircraft, the apparatus comprising:

a portable computer having a processor and memory, the computer connectible with the aircraft to transmit data to and retrieve data from ~~one or more~~ a plurality of modules included in ~~one or more~~ a plurality of components of the aircraft, the data pertaining to ~~one or more~~ a plurality of maintenance and/or engineering functions performable as to the ~~one or more~~ components of the aircraft; [[and]]

a configuration file configured in the computer to receive data transmitted from the one or more aircraft components to populate a plurality of parameters in the configuration file associated with the data;

a translation file configured in the computer and providing a system call for informing a current application that data associated with a parameter is about to be fetched from the configuration file, the translation file further including one or more commands for providing data for one or more parameters determined not to be present in the configuration file; and

a web server software module residing on the computer and having a construct processing module, the ~~computer~~ server and construct processing module configured to use one or more constructs to dynamically format at least some of the data from the configuration file ~~for presentation as~~ in one or more web pages for presentation by a web browser resident in the computer to a user of the computer via a display of the computer~~, said formatting performed by the processor using server and browser modules resident in the computer~~;

the computer configured to, when operating standalone:

execute the system call to inform the construct processing module that data associated with a given parameter is about to be fetched from the configuration file;

based on a status of the system call, determine whether the given parameter is present in the configuration file; and

if the given parameter is determined not to be present, execute a command from the translation file to provide data for the given parameter;

at least one of the web pages dynamically formattable using the parameter data to indicate aircraft hardware components and software subcomponents potentially affected by one of the maintenance actions.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the computer is configured to transmit a loadable software module to the one or more aircraft components to update one of the modules of the one or more aircraft components.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, the browser configured to display a web page based on input by the user to the computer.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the computer is configured to retrieve the data from the one or more aircraft components using a simple network management protocol.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9 ~~further comprising a construct processing module executable by the processor to update the one or more web pages using one or more constructs~~, the construct processing module configured to obtain data from the configuration file using a common gateway interface (CGI) of the server that does not interface with an internet.

14. (currently amended) A method of managing configuration of an aircraft, the method comprising:

connecting a portable computer to the aircraft for communication with one or more software modules resident in one or more components of the aircraft, the computer having resident therein: (a) a configuration file including a plurality of parameters populatable with data from the aircraft, (b) a translation file providing a system call for informing a current application that data associated with a parameter is about to be fetched from the configuration file, the translation file further including one or more commands for providing data for one or more parameters determined not to be included in the configuration file, (c) a web browser software module, and (d) a web server software module having a construct processing module that uses constructs to update web pages for service by the web server module to the web browser module;

[[causing]] operating the computer to retrieve from the one or more modules data describing (a) one or more hardware components of the aircraft and (b) software resident in the one or more hardware components, and to use the retrieved data to populate at least some of the configuration file parameters; and

using ~~a server module resident in the computer and a~~ the browser module ~~resident in the computer~~, viewing the retrieved data and one or more user-selectable management functions relating to the retrieved data on a display of the computer in one or more web pages formatted and displayed by a processor of the computer ~~executing server and browser modules~~, the one or more web pages formatted by the server and construct processing module using data provided by execution of one or more of the translation file commands based on a determination by the computer, after execution of the system call and based on a status of the system call, that a parameter is missing from the configuration file;

the method performed without accessing the Internet.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising selecting a management function based on the retrieved data, the selecting performed using one of the one or more web pages.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein selecting a management function comprises selecting one of the following: updating the software resident in the one or more hardware components of the aircraft, collecting performance data from the aircraft components, and operating a troubleshooting tool relative to the aircraft components.

17. (currently amended) A method of providing configuration management relative to an aircraft, the method performed by a portable computer having a processor and memory, the method comprising:

the processor causing the portable computer to access one or more components of an aircraft and to retrieve data from the one or more components in response to a user request received via a web browser software module and web server software module [[of]] resident in the portable computer, the server module including a construct processing module for updating web pages using one or more constructs;

the processor using the retrieved data to populate at least some of a plurality of parameters in a configuration file of the computer, the computer further including a translation file providing one or more system calls for informing a current application that data associated with a parameter is about to be fetched from the configuration file, one of the system calls further informing the current application that data associated with a given parameter is to be calculated and stored in the configuration file before being fetched from the configuration file, the translation file further including one or more commands for providing data for one or more parameters determined not to be included in the configuration file;

the processor executing the one of the system calls to inform the construct processing module that data associated with the given parameter is about to be

calculated and fetched from the configuration file, and based on a status of the one of the system calls, determining whether the given parameter is included in the configuration file, and based on the determining, executing a command from the translation file to provide data for the given parameter;

the processor executing the web server module to dynamically format at least some of the data retrieved from the one or more aircraft components into one or more web page markups for display as one or more web pages via the browser module;

the processor receiving user input via the browser module indicating a management function to be performed on at least one of the one or more aircraft components; and

the processor causing software to be downloaded from the portable computer to the at least one of the one or more components in response to the user input.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, the processor causing the portable computer to access one or more line replaceable units of the aircraft, the method further comprising the processor causing a ping status to be displayed for each of one or more of the one or more line replaceable units of the aircraft.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the processor displaying data describing (a) one or more hardware components of the aircraft and (b) software resident in the one or more hardware components.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising transferring data to the one or more aircraft components based on user input via one of the one or more web pages.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, ~~further comprising storing the data received from the aircraft in a configuration file of the computer~~ wherein

the data associated with the given parameter is not retrievable from the aircraft components.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the processor ~~executing the web server module comprises the processor processing one or more constructs to include dynamic content in a web page, the processing performed using~~ uses a construct processing module of the server to obtain the data via a common gateway interface (CGI), the CGI executable in the computer when the computer is standalone.